

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A system allowing a user terminal in a network to simultaneously access a plurality of radio based access networks of diverse access technologies, said radio based-access networks being adapted for connection to a common backbone network, the system comprising:

a plurality of access selection adapters, each one being a network entity provided separate from the user terminal, and each one associated with a respective radio based-access network, and each one structured for receiving access dependent information from its respective access network and for mapping said radio access dependent information on to access technology independent status information{[,]}; and

an access selector interacting-being a network entity provided separate from the user terminal, and structured to interact with one or more applications resident in a-the user terminal and to interact with each access adapter for selection of a-radio-an access network based on an individual QoS profile associated with each respective-application and on said access technology independent status information.

2. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the access selection adapters ~~comprise~~are structured to use a protocol spanning the access networks, the backbone network and the access selector, thus allowing interoperation between an application and an end terminal

connected to the backbone network and making the access selection adapters transparent to the ~~applications~~ application.

3. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the radio access dependent information is provided by an access manager in the respective access selection adapter and is signaled between the respective access selection adapter and its corresponding access network on the a spanning layer protocol.

4. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 3, wherein the radio access dependent information comprises any of the following attributes: signal strength, signal quality, delay, service precedence, reliability, mean throughput and peak throughput, bit error ratio, control load parameters, media description parameters, packet format information, expected delay bound, packet loss ratio, bit error rate (BER), packet handling priority, packet loss ratio (PLR), and combinations thereof.

5. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 4, wherein the radio access dependent information further comprises cost and/or available bandwidth.

6. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 4, wherein at least one access selection adapter comprises:

a QoS controller for generating the status information by interacting with ~~the a~~ corresponding application; ~~and further comprising:~~

an access manager for handling ~~the~~ access to its associated radio access network, and for initiating and setting up a radio bearer therein; ~~and~~

a translator for receiving as inputs said radio access dependent information access and map them ~~on~~ to said access technology independent information (wireless hints).

7. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 2, wherein the protocol spanning the backbone network, the access networks, the access adaptors, the access selector, and the applications are ~~the~~ IPv4 or IPv6 protocol ~~suit~~ suite.

8. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, further ~~comprising wherein the user terminal comprises a database connected to the user terminal and~~ containing configuration data for the applications.

9. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the access selector ~~comprises~~ is structured to perform link independent QoS related software processes for access procedures.

10. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 9, wherein said QoS related software processes comprise any one or more of an NSIS (Next Step In IP Signaling) process for radio access independent QoS signaling, ~~an~~ a layer 2-link status process for radio access independent link status information and acquisition, and an resource handling (RH) process for radio access independent resource handling.

11. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 10, wherein said QoS related software processes further comprise ~~at least one or both of the following radio access independent processes:~~ a radio access independent FHO (Fast Handover) process for handling of mobility, and a CARD (Candidate Access Router) process for acquisition of candidate access routers.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the access selector ~~resides in or~~ is connected to the backbone network, and is connected to the access networks.

14. (Currently amended) A method of providing simultaneous access to a plurality of radio based access networks from a moving system that

comprises a user terminal with a plurality of diverse applications, the method comprising:

the user terminal signaling a QoS profile, comprising QoS parameter values, which an application requires, to an access selector being a network entity provided separate from the user terminal, at ~~the~~ a start of said application;

signaling from each available radio access network via ~~an a~~ corresponding individual access adapter, which is a network entity provided separate from the user terminal and which is associated with said available access network, to the access selector radio access ~~network~~-dependent information ~~as well as and~~ status information about that access network's resources;{[,]}

the access selector identifying a radio access network to be used for the application by executing an access selection algorithm which based on the QoS parameters signaled in the QoS profile and the status information of the available radio access networks identifies the radio access network ~~that should be used for the application~~;{[,]}

the access selector communicating the radio access network selection to the user terminal;{[,]} and

the user terminal instructing the access adaptor of the selected radio access network to set up a radio bearer in its associated radio access network.

15. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 14,
wherein the radio access dependent information and the status information are
signaled from the access adaptors to the access selector at time intervals and
when there is a change in any of the QoS parameters associated with the radio
access network.

16. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 15,
wherein a change in a QoS parameter is signaled by a layer 2 trigger or an
access technology trigger.

17. (Currently amended) A method for scheduling ~~the~~ access to an
access network from a mobile user terminal ~~wherein, the method comprising:~~
signaling a service request and an a QoS profile associated therewith are
signaled from an application resident on the user terminal to an access
selection-selector being a network entity and provided separate from the user
terminal;{,}

that the access selector compares-comparing information given in the
QoS parameters contained in the QoS profile with status information received
from access networks that are available to the user terminal;{,}

that the access selector storing the service request is-stored in the user
terminal in case said comparison reveals there is no access network available
that fulfils the QoS-requirements profile;{,}

that the access selector ~~monitors~~ monitoring the status information received from available radio access networks, ~~{,}~~ and ~~repeats the access selector repeating~~ the comparison step and instructs instructing the application to execute when the comparison indicates a ~~radio~~ an access network is available that fulfils the QoS profile.